

Agency Overview

The Public Health Districts were created by the Idaho Legislature in 1970 to ensure that essential public health services were available to protect the health of all citizens of the State – no matter how large their county population. Each of the seven Public Health Districts is governed by a Board of Health composed of seven to eight members appointed by the county commissioners from that district. Each Board of Health defines the public health services to be offered in its district based on the particular needs of the local populations served. They also employ a director to oversee the daily operations of the district.

While Idaho's Public Health Districts are locally based, we share a common vision and mission. Our vision is "healthy people in healthy communities." Our mission is to:

- Prevent disease, injury, disability, and premature death
- Promote healthy lifestyles, and
- Protect and promote the health and quality of Idaho's environment

Although services vary depending on local need, all seven districts provide the essential services that assure healthy communities. These may include:

- Monitoring health status and understand health issues facing the community
- Protecting people from health problems and health hazards
- Giving people information they need to make healthy choices
- Engaging the community to identify and solve health problems
- Helping people receive health services
- Developing public health policies and plans
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations
- Maintaining a competent public health workforce
- Evaluating and improve programs and interventions
- Contributing to the evidence based practice of public health.

The work of the Public Health Districts is often invisible. If we prevent a disease outbreak, it cannot be seen. If we save lives by encouraging people to wear safety belts or by providing a health screening, those services are invisible. Only when they disappear do we realize how important public health services are.

The Public Health Districts receive income from three sources. We receive about 36% of our income from the counties, the State General Fund, and State Millennium Fund. We earn about 25% in fees and another 39% from service contracts. We work hard to use these funds efficiently.

Idaho is fortunate to have a strong system of Public Health Districts – one that is the envy of many other states. The Districts play a critical role in improving and maintaining the health of Idaho citizens.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

As outlined in Idaho Code 39-409, the District Health Departments will provide the basic health services of public health education, physical health, environmental health, and public health administration, but this listing shall not be construed to restrict the service programs of the district health department solely to these categories.

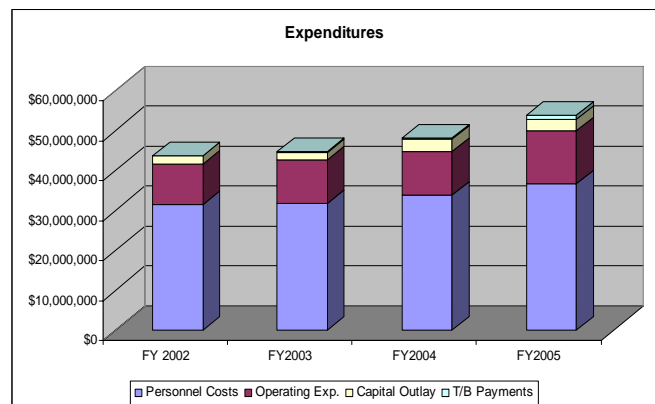
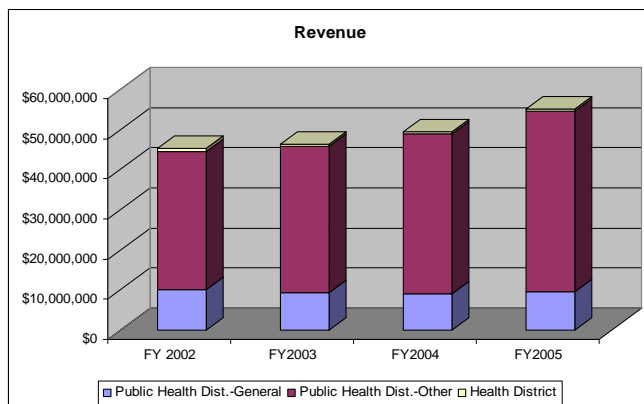
Idaho Code 39-410 outlines the creation of the District Boards of Health, in that "there is hereby created and established in each of the public health districts a district board of health, hereinafter referred to as the district board, which shall be vested with the authority, control, and supervision of the district health department, and with such powers as required to perform the duties as are set forth in this act and shall be responsible for supervision of all district health programs.

Idaho Code 39-414 details the powers of the District Board. The District Board of Health shall have and may exercise the following powers and duties:

- 1) To administer and enforce all state and district health laws, regulations, and standards;
- 2) To do all things required for the preservation and protection of the public health and preventive health, and such other things delegated by the director of the state department of health and welfare or the director of the department of environmental quality.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Public Health Dist.-General	\$10,134,100	\$9,437,500	\$9,166,300	\$9,557,600
Public Health Dist.-Other	\$34,455,500	\$36,336,800	\$39,577,000	\$45,109,600
Health District	<u>\$532,600</u>	<u>\$478,200</u>	<u>\$514,100</u>	<u>\$497,300</u>
Total	\$45,122,200	\$46,252,500	\$49,257,400	\$55,164,500
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$31,389,100	\$31,783,300	\$33,745,200	\$36,543,900
Operating Expenditures	\$10,151,100	\$10,736,500	\$10,966,300	\$13,256,500
Capital Outlay	\$2,015,400	\$1,980,100	\$3,184,800	\$2,974,500
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>\$161,400</u>	<u>\$161,400</u>	<u>\$201,500</u>	<u>\$1,053,800</u>
Total	\$43,717,000	\$44,661,300	\$48,097,800	\$53,828,700



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Provide information to WIC and Family Planning clients on the benefits of regular physical activity	56,855	62,378	56,687	67,724
Distribute tobacco cessation information to WIC and Family Planning clients who smoke	13,987	7,857	11,024	15,141
Counsel Family Planning clients on responsible sexual behavior	32,576	33,689	32,786	32,934
Investigate cases of E. coli	82	62	101	64
Issue septic system permits	5,510	5,609	5,843	5,814
Provide age appropriate immunizations to children birth to 2 years	2,517	3,079	4,350	4,376
Vaccinate for influenza and pneumonia	I: 28,111 P: 880	I: 37,786 P: 928	I: 49,644 P: 1,001	I: 35,062 P: 1,002
Provide pap smears	21,472	20,468	19,413	20,144
Provide mammograms to women enrolled in the Women's Health Check Program	2,140	1,746	1,771	2,025
Inspection of childcare facilities	2,285	2,970	3,303	3,471
Inspection of food establishments	7,318	7,367	7,529	7,858
Provide school fluoride programs to children	28,804	34,226	33,276	34,651

Performance Highlights

Over the past year, public health workers have devoted time and special expertise to develop detailed plans to respond to public health emergencies of smallpox, SARS, West Nile Virus, and biological terrorism. They did not happen in our state, but, like all emergencies any of them could happen at just about anytime and public health must be ready to respond quickly to reduce the amount of disease and the number of deaths that would result.

The seven Public Health Districts engaged in a voluntary program demonstrating our readiness abilities to respond to a public health emergency. All seven public health districts were awarded the national recognition of being "Public Health Ready". Idaho has the distinction of being the first and only state to have ALL local Public Health Districts with this status.

We are working with our local partners, county emergency planning committees, police, fire, businesses, hospitals and media to continue to exercise and enhance our efforts.

For More Information Contact

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